

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 ISO-00 EB-07 SP-02 INR-07 /044 W

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R 181355Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3714

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 15124

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT

SUBJECT: ESSO PAYMENTS TO ITALIAN POLITICAL PARTIES

REF: STATE 168114 #

1. IRS OFFICE ROME HAS RECEIVED REQUEST FROM IRS WASHINGTON TO SEEK ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PAYMENTS MADE BY ESSO ITALIANA TO POLITICAL PARTIES, INDIVIDUALS, NEWSPAPERS, ETC. AND, IN PARTICULAR, ON FUNDS THAT WERE UNDER PERSONAL CONTROL OF EX-PRESIDENT OF ESSO (CAZZANIGA) AND THAT HAVE NOT BEEN FULLY ACCOUNTED FOR. IRS ROME APPROACHED ITALIAN TAX AUTHORITIES (GUARDIA DI FINANZA) AND WAS TOLD THAT INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE FROM THEM AND SUGGESTED IF IRS WISHED TO PURSUE MATTER IT SHOULD DO SO THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

2. WE REVIEWED HISTORY OF MATTER WITH IRS ROME. WE TOLD THEM THAT IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT EXXON MADE A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF ESSO ITALIANA AND THAT THE RESULTS OF THAT INVESTIGATION ARE THE MOST COMPLETE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ANYWHERE. FURTHER, WE SAID WE BELIEVE THAT EXXON HAS FAR MORE INFORMATION ON THE ISSUE THAN DOES THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. WE RECALLED THAT EXXON'S INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO A SENATE COMMITTEE AND MUCH (IF NOT ALL) OF IT WAS PUBLISHED IN AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS. WE ALSO SAID THAT WE DOUBTED THAT GOI WOULD BE FORTHCOMING PROMPTLY WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDLESS OF HOW APPROACHED. FINALLY WE INFORMED IRS ROME THAT THERE HAD BEEN, EARLIER THIS YEAR, CONTACTS IN WASHINGTON

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BETWEEN ITALIAN EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT (AND PERHAPS WITH

OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND SENATE). VOLPE

NOTE BY OC/T: # REF STATE 168114 APPARENTLY INCORRECT.

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Message Attributes

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